To boost the export of these commodities, special attention is being given to quality improvement by extending financial and technical assistance to the growers and other stakeholders. Other activities being undertaken to boost export earning of these commodities are: participation in trade fairs and exhibitions; organizing buyer-seller meets; financial assistance to exporters to participate in international fairs and exhibitions; brand promotion; public relation campaigns etc.

Subsidies for exports due to strong rupee

2021. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether Government has announced subsidies for exports due to the strong rupee;

(b) the details of this scheme or policies or proposal to help big export lobbies;

(c) what are the reasons for Government being partial to big exports;

(d) what steps will be taken to give equal treatment to small exporters; and

(e) the steps proposed to review the need of helping big exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) Government has provided a number of reliefs to the exporters, irrespective of their size, in view of the adverse situation arising out of rupee appreciation. These include enhancement of Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme (DEPB) rates, enhancement of Duty Drawback, reduction of ECGC premia rates, reduction of interest on pre and post shipment credit, timely settlement of refund of terminal excise duty, central sales tax, deemed export duty drawback up to 30th June, 2007, making Exchange Earners Foreign Currency (EEFC) accounts interest bearing, exemption/refund of service tax with respect to some of the services related to exports, enhancement of assistance to exporters as also coverage of additional products under Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana and reduction of import duties on select textile materials.

High cost of CFLs

2022. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the use of Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) is the need of the hour to save consumption of power, but, the cost of lamps is beyond the reach of common man;

(b) if so, whether Government has considered ways and means to subsidise the cost of these lamps;

(c) whether Indian manufacturers of CFLs have sought anti-dumping duties on imports of cheap Chinese CFLs; and

(d) if so, the status of such application?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) : Yes, Sir. The cost of Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFL) is higher as